

b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 100 nucleotide residues and having a nucleotide sequence identical to at least 100 consecutive nucleotide residues of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, or a complement thereof;

c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46;

d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes at least 18 consecutive amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46; and

e) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a variant of the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46 or a complement thereof under stringent conditions.

2. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, or a complement thereof; and

b) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46.

12. (Amended) A method for producing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

Sub B5 cont
a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46;

b) a polypeptide comprising at least 18 contiguous amino acids of the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46; and

CR14
Q2
c) a variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions;

the method comprising culturing the host cell of claim 5 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.

Please add new claims 24-38 as follows.

Sub D6
Q3
-- 24. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule has a sequence which is at least 90% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, or a complement thereof.

25. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein the nucleic acid molecule has a sequence which is at least 95% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, or a complement thereof.

26. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises at least 100 nucleotide residues and has a nucleotide sequence identical to at least 100 consecutive nucleotide residues of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, or a complement thereof.

27. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises at least 150 nucleotide residues and has a nucleotide sequence identical to at least 150 consecutive nucleotide residues of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, or a complement thereof

28. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises at least 500 nucleotide residues and has a nucleotide sequence identical to at least 500 consecutive nucleotide residues of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, or a complement thereof

29. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46.

30. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes at least 18 consecutive amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46.

31. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 30, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes at least 25 consecutive amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46.

32. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a variant of the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46 or a complement thereof under stringent conditions.

33. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 30, wherein the polypeptide exhibits lipase activity.

34. The host cell of claim 5, which is a prokaryotic host cell.

35. The method of claim 12, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46.

36. The method of claim 12, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least 18 contiguous amino acids of the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46.

37. The method of claim 12, wherein the polypeptide is a variant of the polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 46, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions.

38. The method of claim 12, wherein the polypeptide exhibits lipase activity. --

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 12, and 24-38 are pending. Claims 1, 2, and 12 have been amended. Claims 24-38 have been added. Claims 8-11 and 13-23 have been canceled. No additional claim fee is believed to be due, because 15 claims have been canceled and 15 dependent claims have been added. For the Examiner's convenience, the Applicants have enclosed a "**Clean Copy of Claims, as Amended in the Preliminary Amendment Filed in Response to the Restriction Requirement Dated 24 April 2001.**" In that document, all pending, non-withdrawn claims are listed in an order that the Applicants suggest would be appropriate for issuance.

Support in the Specification

The Applicant respectfully contends that these new claims do not include new matter for the reasons set forth in the following paragraph.

Amended claims 1, 2, and 12 contain no subject matter that they did not originally contain, and are therefore supported by claims 1, 2, and 12 as originally filed. Numerical values recited in these claims are also disclosed in the specification at page 2, line 17, through page 3, line 27.